

other high school dropouts who had a desire to re-enter the system and complete their high school education. Dr. Jossell served as Teen Parent Counselor/Coordinator for two years and was later promoted to Principal/Director of the Y.O.U. Alternative Education Program. At this time, the program was operated in conjunction with the Quitman County School District. With this new appointment, Dr. Jossell received Certification in Educational Administration in 1994 from the University of Mississippi, and her Doctorate in Education in 2012 from Walden University in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

After federal funds ended in support of the Y.O.U. Program in 1994, Dr. Jossell re-organized the program as a Community-Based Nonprofit to diversify the program's funding streams. Over the 26-year lifespan of Y.O.U., Dr. Jossell wrote and submitted grants garnering over 14 million dollars in Federal and State Grants focusing on education, health, mentoring, recreation and physical fitness services for high risk youth. As a result of these programs, several students received their G.E.D. were able to travel outside of the county (many for the first time) to professional football and basketball games; participated in organized youth sports programs; participated in male and female mentoring programs; and participated in Service Learning/School-to-Career projects that provided leadership skills and career exposure. Some of Y.O.U.'s alumni are principals, assistant principals, entrepreneurs, superintendents, doctors, educators, nurse practitioners, and more importantly, several decided to return to Quitman County to work as professionals in the county that embraced them as youth.

In January 2015, Dr. Jossell was given an assignment, that she believes was an appointment by God to run for Superintendent of Education. She strongly believes that every career path God had previously placed her on, provided the experience and fortitude she would need to be an effective Superintendent. Guided by the Holy Spirit, and with a platform touting transformation change, Dr. Jossell was elected as Superintendent of Education in August 2015 and took office January 2016. In a period of two years, the Quitman County School district went from an "F" accountability rating to a "C" performance rating. In 2018, the district's only elementary school was assigned an "A" accountability rating, the first in the history of the school system. Inclusive with improving their academic standing, the school district also went from a 76.9 percent graduation rate in 2016 to a 95.5 percent graduation rate in 2020, ranking them with the 6th highest graduation rate out of 448 high schools in the state. The district ranked 9th in the State with the lowest dropout rate, and 3rd in the State with the highest number of Special Service students graduating with a standard diploma. Dr. Jossell is quick to give Glory to God for this success, and recognition to an amazing Board, Administration, Faculty and Staff who truly believe that excellence is not an event, but an everyday practice that can be achieved regardless of their zip code.

Dr. Jossell's greatest cheerleader is her husband of 41 years, Pastor Michael E. Jossell. Together they have built a life of servitude to their family, church, and community. They are the proud parents of 5 adult children: Dr. Endre' Matthews; John S. Jossell, Michael E. Jossell, Jr., Jason D. Jossell, and Dr. Andrea M. Jossell; three beautiful grand-

daughters-Mckenzie Faith, Ava Grace, Olivia Joy and a grandson due in September.

Dr. Jossell is a Silver Star Member of the Iota Delta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dr. Evelyn W. Jossell for her dedication to serving this great community and state.

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#### IN HONOR OF THE LIFE OF JAMES CLIFTON CLARK, JR.

#### HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 14, 2021*

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the life of James Clifton Clark, Jr. of Sumpter Township, Michigan who passed away on June 7, 2021. His life of honorable service to our community is worthy of commendation.

Mr. Clark was born on September 24, 1942 to James and Marion Clark in Detroit, Michigan. The eldest of ten children. he studied engineering and earned a master's degree from Wayne State University. After completing his education, he went on to work at the headquarters of Ford Motor Company where he worked as a Quality Manager for 44 years.

A dedicated member of his community, Mr. Clark served his neighbors in Sumpter Township in countless ways. He served for years as Sumpter Township Building Inspector, on the Planning Commission, and on the Zoning Board of Appeals. Along with his father, he wrote the first ordinance for Sumpter Township. At the time of his passing, Mr. Clark was serving as Sumpter Township's Treasurer.

Mr. Clark was a trusted colleague and friend to many. He skillfully balanced his career, was committed to public service, and ensured he gave plenty of family time. Mr. Clark was known for being the family handyman and has built churches throughout the state of Ohio and built homes in the state of Michigan. Notably, he built the Clubhouse at Holiday West Mobile Home Community with the help of his family.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of James Clifton Clark Jr., he was a dedicated public servant, a loving father, grandfather, uncle, and a friend to many. He will be deeply missed. Our thoughts are with his wife Toni, children Jim, Loni, Melissa, Lisa, and Alisa, and his grandchildren, nieces, and nephews at this time.

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#### HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF HARRY MELANDER

#### HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 14, 2021*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of Harry Melander on the occasion of his retirement as President of the Minnesota Building and Construction Trades Council. During his more than four decades of union leadership and public service, Harry has made a lasting impact through his work on behalf of Min-

nesota's working families. Additionally, Harry has represented the interests of Minnesotans through his service as a member of the Metropolitan Council, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis Board, the St. Paul Port Authority Board, and the Washington County Planning Commission, among other community leadership roles.

Harry began his career as a union carpenter in 1973 and quickly rose as a leader on behalf of his fellow labor brothers and sisters, becoming president the Carpenters Local 87 Union. Later he became a business representative for the St. Paul Building Trades Council, then executive secretary in 1997. Harry focused his work on building relationships throughout the community. Reaching out to elected officials, business and community leaders and developers, he cultivated relationships that are still present today, ultimately increasing the number of jobs for Building Trades union members.

After becoming Executive Secretary of St. Paul Building Trades in 2005, Harry was soon faced with the monumental challenge of navigating the industry through the economic collapse of 2008 when some crafts lost up to 70 percent of their work. But thanks in large part to Harry's advocacy and work to build partnerships with the Minnesota Congressional Delegation, state leaders and the City of Saint Paul, the industry was able to keep working on major public projects including the restoration of Saint Paul's Union Depot as the Twin Cities' multimodal transit hub and construction of the Green Line Light Rail Transit.

Since Harry became the president of the Minnesota Building and Construction Trades Council in 2009, he has tirelessly promoted growth and advancement of affiliated unions, supported diversity and inclusion efforts in the construction industry, protected health and safety for all workers, and encouraged relationship building with employers, other labor organizations, and government officials. He has been a leader in the transformation toward clean energy jobs, and has navigated the council through the many challenges brought on in the past year by the COVID-19 pandemic and the civil unrest that enveloped the Twin Cities after the death of George Floyd.

Throughout it all, Harry has been an unwavering voice for Minnesota's working families, and a dedicated public servant. It has been my great pleasure to work closely with Harry on many projects and priorities over the years, and I know I speak for many in the community of Saint Paul and the East Metro when I say that he has been a tremendous asset to the labor movement. Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the outstanding career of one of our state's most effective leaders, Harry Melander.

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#### HONORING MS. MELA LOUISE NORMAN

#### HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 14, 2021*

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of my staff to recognize an essential, founding member of my team, Ms. Mela Louise Norman.

In her time serving as my chief of staff, Mela has been an invaluable partner. No matter the situation, my office has been able to rely on her strong leadership and fierce advocacy for getting the job done. She has been a consummate professional, ably navigating the various issues we've faced with grace and dignity.

It's no exaggeration to say that our success over the past three years can be directly attributed to Mela's knack for finding talent. In fact, every single member that currently works on Team Slotkin in our D.C. office was interviewed and hired by Mela.

Now, as Mela gets ready to embark on her next chapter as Secretary Lloyd Austin's deputy chief of staff, I wanted to take a moment to recognize her on the floor of the People's House with tributes from the team that she has led for the past three years.

When asked to sum up the essence of Mela, most of my staff pointed to her strong work ethic and her ability to stay calm, cool and collected under pressure. They talked about her leading by example and seeing no job too large or too small. They also mention her deep compassion toward the people we serve and her thoughtful and skillful communication.

Those who were with us at the very beginning remember the chaos of setting up our freshman congressional office. They recall a moment of endless opportunities and seemingly endless challenges, requiring patience, discipline, and immense attention to detail.

As my staff will tell you, Mela dove into the role of chief—adding additional team members, implementing processes, and getting our office up and running in order to serve the folks who call Michigan's 8th district home.

When staff needed decisive action without a moment's hesitation, they attest that Mela was always there to execute. When staff in the district office and the D.C. office needed to circle up and hash out a way forward, Mela was instrumental in facilitating the conversation. And when our partners back home needed a reliable partner in dealing with the office, they praised Mela for building relationships that still bear fruit to this day.

For the younger members of my staff, particularly the younger women, they've learned from Mela by seeing her operate up close. On too many occasions to count, they saw her think, both on her feet and outside the box, in order to make the impossible seem possible. They mention her mentorship and professional development as instrumental in giving them the confidence to assert themselves in the workplace.

My staff also appreciated Mela's unique ability to jump in—at any level—to help the team. In three years, she guided our team through an impeachment inquiry, public town halls to explain the decision, a war powers resolution drafted in the wee hours of the night, an insurrection and a second impeachment. Every member of the staff remembers how Mela was in the trenches with them during every one of these key events.

When the COVID-19 pandemic turned congressional offices upside down last March, our office was able to nimbly adapt, thanks to Mela. One of our congressional fellows at the time appreciated how she spearheaded the transition from in-person work to telework in the span of a week, making sure that folks had the tools to do their jobs in order to avoid any drop-off in service to our constituents.

Lastly, my team has appreciated the culture of respect and cooperation that is instilled in every new addition to the team. More than one staffer talked about her metaphor of our office being in a boat—with each member rowing as hard as they can in the same direction. With Mela at the helm, we've been able to accomplish this in spades.

No tribute to Mela would be complete without mentioning her husband, Kurt. In the military, there is a tradition of honoring a retiring member's service as well as their family's sacrifice. To Kurt, who well understands this sentiment as an active duty service member in the U.S. Navy himself, I want to extend my deepest gratitude for his willingness to support Mela when we had an early morning prep session or a late night mark-up.

Madam Speaker, to say that Mela Louise Norman will be missed is an enormous understatement. Her record speaks for itself.

In the days and weeks ahead, I have no doubt that our team will be putting out the latest fire or handling the next crisis with the question: "What would Mela do?"

In the meantime, we wish her all the best as she returns to her old stomping grounds at the Pentagon. On behalf of a grateful district and a grateful team, I thank Mela.

#### HONORING TRINITY HOUSE OF PRAYER CHURCH

#### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 14, 2021*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable church, Trinity House of Prayer Church.

The Trinity House of Prayer Church is inspired by God and initiated by the Man of God, to win souls for the Kingdom, to bring salvation, healing, and deliverance, to God's people, also, to carry the gospel to the lost sheep, and to create unity among God's people of all denominations.

In February of 1974, Bishop and First Lady Knighten, along with their children, moved back to Mississippi under the inspiration of God. Bishop organized the Christian Fellowship Mission so that different denominations could come together in fellowship. Many followers had no church home. They asked Bishop Knighten to organize a church so they could join. In 1977, he organized the Trinity House of Prayer Church, in a building that he rented to set up a business. The first service was held on Sunday, December 10, 1977, with Bishop Knighten delivering the opening sermon.

As the ministry was growing, several churches derived from Trinity Ministries. So, Trinity House of Prayer of Moorhead became the Mother Church. Still the membership grew at the Mother Church to where a bigger church was needed. A stretch of land on the west end of town was prayed over and claimed by some of the church members. God answered their prayers and the land became property of the Trinity House of Prayer Ministries. After hiring someone to lay the foundation and frame up the building, the saints rolled up their sleeves and went to work. Their faithfulness was beyond measure. They worked many long hours and far over in the

night, to complete their new church home. Today, they sit in what resulted from the faithfulness and hard work of the saints, the mother church of the Trinity House of Prayer Ministries.

God has blessed the Trinity Ministry for years. Many people from all walks of life have been inspired, saved and loved by this ministry that God has entrusted to Bishop Knighten. Even though many people have passed through the ministry and some churches have left, God is still blessing the Trinity House of Prayer Ministry. The purpose of the Trinity Ministry is to allow God to manifest the vision which he has placed on this part of His body. The harvest is white, and the labors are few. Now is the time to do what God has commissioned Bishop Knighten to "gather God's people together unto Him; those that have made a covenant with God by sacrifice."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Trinity House of Prayer Church for its longevity and dedication to serving others.

CITY OF WHEAT RIDGE, CO

#### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 14, 2021*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today, to recognize the City of Wheat Ridge, Colorado for being recognized as an All-American City for 2021, awarded by the National Civic League.

The theme for 2021, "Building Equitable and Resilient Communities", focused on recognizing communities that have worked to improve broad-based economic prosperity while also adapting and evolving during a challenging time.

Incorporated in 1969, Wheat Ridge has evolved from a quiet city to a bustling suburb while finding ways to honor its roots and its unique character and improving quality of life for its residents. The city was awarded based on three programs that highlighted the city's work to increase equity and resiliency.

The "Wheaties Academy", a leadership program developed to expand and diversify the civic voice within the community, has successfully engaged a wide array of community members and reflected the actual diversity of the city. Secondly, the creation of "Sustainable Wheat Ridge", an environmental stewardship program, worked to prioritize a vision for the city as outlined in the city's long-term strategic plan. Comprised of 11 resident volunteers, the committee dedicated over 550 hours to complete the action plan which was approved and funded by the city. Lastly, the "Wheat Ridge Together" initiative is a collaborative effort to respond to the dual challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and racial justice issues within the community. Wheat Ridge was well-positioned to face the challenges of the pandemic due to two new virtual public engagement tools that were launched prior to the pandemic: What's Up Wheat Ridge and Wheat Ridge Speaks, both of which provided on line opportunities for the community to engage with the city and provide public comment on city business. Wheat Ridge Speaks hosted 54 virtual meetings in 2020 and 166 comments were submitted electronically.